GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:224
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2002
EXPORT OF TOBACCO
GANTA SRINIVASA RAO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of tobacco particularly Flue Cured Virginia tobacco has been badly affected and have resulted in fall of prices of tobacco;

(b) if so, the reasons for decline in export of tobacco indicating the quantum of tobacco exported during the last three years; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to increase the export?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b) : The export of tobacco, particularly, Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco has been fluctuating over the past few years. In general, there has been a decline in international demand for tobacco because of the large inventories currently being maintained by most importer nations. The data on the quantum of tobacco exported over the past three years is as follows :

YEAR	TOBACCO		TOBACCO PRODUCTS		TOTAL	
	Qty. (Tons)	Value (Rs.Crs.)	Qty. (Tons)	Value (Rs.Crs.)	(Tons)	(Rs.Crs)
1998-99	82366	634.48	18957	171.71	101323	806.19
1999-00	122590	864.47	13631	185.45	136221	1050.22
2000-01	100537	677.04	15393	226.34	115930	903.38
2001-02+	66537	455.22	13252	228.51	79789	683.73

+ : April`01 to January`02

Source : Tobacco Board

(c) Government is making various efforts to increase exports. These include participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions, organisation of delegations of tobacco traders and exporters to various countries and intensive interaction at high-level bilateral official meetings. The Tobacco Board is also undertaking an extensive advertisement campaign in the international media to promote Indian tobacco.